

Also of critical importance in this bill are provisions to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act to tackle the problem of contamination in the Great Lakes Basin. It would provide the necessary funding to help clean up contaminated sediment in over 30 concerning areas.

My gratitude must also be extended to my esteemed colleague from Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, for his steadfast commitment to the Great Lakes and the passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1262 today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2009, I was absent for one Rollcall Vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Vote 124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 6, 2009, I missed rollcall vote 107 on approving the Journal. If present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING FRANCIS M. GORSKI

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis M. Gorski for his 50th year of active service to the Lingohocken Fire Company. He and his family have been extremely dedicated to serving Wrightstown Township and the community as a whole.

Lingohocken firefighters are able to become "Life Members" after twenty-five years of service and let others take over. That was an option for Mr. Gorski twenty-five years ago, but instead he has remained hard at work—as so many have come to expect.

Mr. Gorski is one of the most active members of the department, responding to 70–80% of their calls. He has responded to calls that many individuals his age would no longer respond to—including calls at 3 o'clock in the morning. He volunteers his time for Lingohocken on top of the time he spends running the family business with his two younger brothers.

He has served at almost every rank in the company including chief, and is currently serving as deputy chief. His dedication and work ethic are examples for our community and country to follow.

Those at the company—and in our entire community—are extremely proud of the accomplishments and outstanding level of serv-

ice Mr. Gorski provides to the people of Wrightstown Township and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Francis Gorski for his exceptional services to his community and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT HELEN MARSHALL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, an outstanding public servant. First elected the Borough President of Queens in November 2001, Helen Marshall is the first African-American and just the second woman to assume the post of chief executive of Queens County, which has a population of more than 2.2 million people. She has been a leader of uncommon grace, energy, and dedication to the people she serves.

As the Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall has been a champion for public libraries and schools, job training programs, quality health care, senior citizens, the environment, and economic development, just as she has been throughout her remarkable career. She has allocated tens of millions of dollars for parks, playgrounds and libraries, and in 2005 was bestowed the statewide Daniel Casey Library Advocacy Award. She has helped fund the expansions of cultural institutions, organized a Borough President's "War Room" to ensure the timely construction of thirty new public schools with more than 17,800 seats, and marshaled support for important infrastructure projects like the Queens Plaza Roadway Rebuilding Project and Long Island City Links. Marshall also spearheaded the historic effort to bring CUNY to the Rockaway Peninsula, providing \$6 million in capital funding to convert a former courthouse.

A native New Yorker, Helen Marshall served for nearly two decades as a respected legislator in both the New York State Assembly and the New York City Council. In 1982, she was elected to the first of five terms in the New York State Assembly, where she chaired the Rules Committee and served on the Leiland Commission.

When she won her seat on the City Council in 1991, she became the first female and first member of a minority elected to represent her City Council district, she worked to improve and unite an extraordinarily diverse community. On the City Council, she served as Chair of the Higher Education Committee and on the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Women's Issues. She also served as Co-Chair of the Council's Black and Latino Caucus. As Chair of the City Council's Higher Education Committee, Marshall successfully fought against the privatization of the City University of New York, one of the largest public university systems in the world. She secured funds to restore the City's free dental clinics, led the fight to prevent the sale of Elmhurst and Queens Hospital Center and has fought for many years to protect Flushing Bay from the impact of LaGuardia Airport.

A proud graduate of the New York City public school system, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Queens College of the City University of New York. For eight years prior to her election to the Assembly, Marshall was an early childhood teacher. In 1969 she became the first Director of the Langston Hughes Library, a post she held for five years. She also served as Director of the Elmcot Testing Assessment and Placement Program for eight years, where she helped hundreds of New Yorkers find gainful employment. In 1975, she served as a Member of the Democratic National Committee. She also served on Queens Community Board 3 for thirteen years, as a parent activist in the public schools for a decade and a half, was a founder of the Queens Overall Economic Development Corporation, and was elected in 1974 as a Democratic District Leader.

Helen Marshall remains devoted to her beloved husband, Donald, and to her children and grandchildren. She is universally regarded with affection by the people of Queens, a remarkable feat in the most diverse county in our nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Borough President Marshall, who has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout her career on behalf of her constituents in Queens and all New Yorkers.

IN HONOR OF JOHN P. GALLAGHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and of memory of my friend and mentor, John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office, John P. Gallagher Building, and in recognition of his lifetime service to our community and to our country.

A lifelong resident of Cleveland, Mr. Gallagher was the son of Irish immigrants, from whom he learned the values of a strong work ethic and the importance of faith, family and service to community. During World War II, he served in the Army, First Engineer Special Brigade and in six combat campaigns, including missions in North Africa and the Normandy Invasion. Following the war, Mr. Gallagher worked in construction before taking a job with the City of Cleveland in 1954. He worked diligently for the City, until his retirement in 1987, which followed 22 years in the role of Superintendent of Sidewalks.

Throughout his adult life, Mr. Gallagher dedicated his time and talent to issues and projects focused on the improvement of our community. He was a staunch advocate of neighborhood safety, and also advocated for the welfare and rights of senior citizens. For many years, he served as a Democratic Party precinct committee chairman and volunteered countless hours in numerous local, state and national campaigns. He kept a close watch over his neighborhood park, and organized programs and projects for senior citizens at Cleveland's Gunning Recreation Center. His intelligence, kindness and good sense of humor quickly endeared people to him. Mr.

Gallagher's keen understanding of the soul of a neighborhood and his opinions on community issues were valued by everyone, from neighbors to national leaders.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office building after John P. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher's service to family, friends, community and country has greatly influenced the lives of everyone he has known, including my own. He will forever be remembered along the streets, in the meeting halls and throughout the parks of Cleveland's west side neighborhood.

PROCLAMATION: THE 50TH WINTER
PARK SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL

HON. SUZANNE M. KOSMAS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. KOSMAS. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, since its founding in 1960, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, which is an all volunteer effort supported by the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Committee, the City of Winter Park and numerous volunteers, has grown to become one of the premier art festivals in the county; and

Whereas, every year hundreds of Winter Park citizens contribute thousands of hours to ensure that the 350,000 visitors to the Festival enjoy the best in fine art and that the 225 exhibiting artists enjoy the best in outdoor art venues; and

Whereas, exhibits by Orange County school students have been part of the Festival since its inception, and the more recent Children's Workshop Village has integrated local museums and art centers to provide exciting art experiences for children of all ages; and

Whereas, the Festival Emerging Artist Program gives promising and talents artists who are determining their career paths the opportunity to exhibit in their first outdoor art festival, all expenses paid; and

Whereas, The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Foundation provides scholarships to local colleges and universities for promising art students.

Now, therefore, I, Suzanne M. Kosmas, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Congresswoman, 24th District, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 20, 21 and 22, 2009 "The 50th Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival" and encourage all residents to recognize and show their appreciation for the many memories and contributions the Festival has made to our community over the years.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to be affixed this 16th day of March, 2009.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
DOLORIS COULTER COGAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Doloris Coulter

Cogan and the publication of her book, *We Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy*. Ms. Cogan is a 1946 graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York. *We Fought the Navy and Won* is a personal recollection of Guam's transition from a Naval Administration to a civilian government after World War II. Ms. Cogan at the time was editor of the *Guam Echo* under the Institute of Ethnic Affairs, and her writings chronicle the stories of Guam's leaders, their allies in Washington, D.C., and their efforts in bringing a civilian government to Guam.

From 1898 to 1950, Guam was administered under the Secretary of the Navy, and while legislation for Guam's self-governance had been introduced before this Congress none were reported out of committee. It was not until the signing of the Guam Organic Act of 1950 by President Harry S. Truman, that Guam was allowed to govern itself with a civilian government. The Guam Organic Act transferred administration of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior and established executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government on Guam. Since that time, Congress has passed legislation that changed the Governor of Guam from a Presidential appointment position to a locally elected position. Further, Congress passed legislation granting Guam a non-voting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

As Guam's representative to the U.S. Congress, I commend Ms. Cogan for her work as editor of the *Guam Echo* and for the publishing of *I Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy*. Through her writings we are to reflect and appreciate the efforts undertaken to bring self-governance to Guam and we can have a deeper appreciation of the historical roots of the Organic Act of Guam.

RECOGNIZING DANNA CHATWELL
AS THE 2008-2009 HURLBURT AFA
CHAPTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Danna Chatwell, recipient of the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award for the 2008-2009 school year. Her success as an educator is a testament to the power of our country's teachers, and I am proud to honor Ms. Chatwell on this distinguished occasion.

Ms. Chatwell serves as a seventh grade science teacher at Woodlawn Beach Middle School in Gulf Breeze, Florida. In 2007, she earned the Holley-Navarre Intermediate Teacher of the Year, and this recent AFA award highlights her continued achievements. By merging technology and modern trends with proven teaching practices, Ms. Chatwell gives every student the ability to be successful. Her energy and passion for teaching infuse a desire for knowledge in her students that lives on long after they have graduated from her classroom.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Ms. Chatwell for her service to the students of

Woodlawn Beach and to the community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish her and her family best wishes for continued success.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 (H.R. 1106) and to congratulate Chairman FRANK, Chairman CONYERS, and Speaker PELOSI for their quick action to help American families.

The last eight years of disinvestment in American families have pushed the economy into a deep recession. Unemployment is rising and home values are falling while the costs of health care and food continue to rise. Thousands of my constituents have been laid off and can no longer afford to meet the basic needs of their families or pay their mortgages.

The dream of homeownership has become a nightmare for too many. Many home buyers are falling behind on their payments because of dropping home values and the financial crisis through no fault of their own. Many could make their mortgage payments until they lost their jobs or their incomes dropped. Others were victims of predatory lending by unscrupulous mortgage brokers and are now struggling with unaffordable subprime loans. An estimated 14 million homeowners owe more than their home is worth, and many cannot refinance into an affordable mortgage. As a result, a record number of Americans are losing their homes to foreclosure every month. Foreclosures hurt everyone—including our families, neighborhoods, and communities—resulting in lost tax revenue for local governments, reduced property values for neighbors, and often abandoned properties require an increased police presence in our neighborhoods.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 is a comprehensive approach to break the cycle of foreclosures and declining home values. This legislation offers fair and effective solutions to help families who are facing foreclosure today and those at risk of foreclosure in the future. To accomplish this, H.R. 1106 improves the Hope for Homeowners program by reducing fees that discourage lenders from voluntarily refinancing mortgage loans. This bill would also provide bankruptcy judges with the authority they need to modify loan terms for families who are already in the bankruptcy process—a provision that could reduce foreclosures by 20 percent at no cost to taxpayers. Bankruptcy courts currently have the power to modify loans for corporations, commercial real estate and even vacation homes; extending this option to save the primary residences for families is necessary and equitable.

Last week, President Obama announced the Comprehensive Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, a bold strategy to help up to nine million families restructure their mortgages to avoid foreclosure. The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act is a key step in putting President Obama's plan into place.

The collapsing housing market is one of the root causes of the present economic crisis.